Case 2:14-cv-04205-CDJ Document 1 Filed 07/11/14 Page 1 of 17 CIVIL COVER SHEET

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I. (a) PLAINTIFFS			DEFENDANT	rs .	
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(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)			NOTE: IN LAND	ce of First Listed Defendant	·
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2 U.S. Government Defendant	☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of	Parties in Item III)	Citizen of Another State	☐ 2 ☐ 2 Incorporated and F of Business In A	
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Case 2:14-cv-04205-CDJ Document 1 Filed 07/11/14 Page 2 of 17

FOR THE EASTERN DIFFRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA — DESIGNATION FORM to be assignment to a configuration of the second seco	e used by counsel to indicathe categor of the control of the purpose of
Address of Plaintiff: Jo Lie KROOK, 33 East Camino Rea	al. APT. 407 BOCA RATON, FL 33432
Address of Defendant: HAVER FOR & College, 370 LANCASTER	2 AVE. HAVERFORD, PA 19041
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Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: Haver fold PA (Use Reverse Side For A	dditional Space)
Does this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate party with any parent corporation a	nd any publicly held corporation owning 10% or more of its stock?
(Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 7.1(a)	Yes□ No No
Does this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities?	Yes No No
RELATED CASE, IF ANY:	
Case Number: Judge	Date Terminated:
Civil cases are deemed related when yes is answered to any of the following questions:	
1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year.	
2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior s	Yes No
action in this court?	
3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier r	Yes No No
terminated action in this court?	Yes No
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	Yes□ No□
CIVIL: (Place ✓ in ONE CATEGORY ONLY)	
A. Federal Question Cases:	B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:
1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts	1. □ Insurance Contract and Other Contracts
2. □ FELA	2. Airplane Personal Injury
3. □ Jones Act-Personal Injury	3. □ Assault, Defamation
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□ Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, Section 3(c)(2), that to the best of my knowledge and	
\$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs;	
Relief other than monetary damages is sought.	
DATE: 7-9-2014 Charlos	52926
Attorney-at-Law	Attorney I.D.#
NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if the	ere has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38.
I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is not related to any case now pending or except as noted above.	within one year previously terminated action in this court
DATE: 7-9-2014 Cholde	UL 11 2014 52926 Attorney I.D.#
Attorney-at-Law	Attorney I.D.#

CIV. 609 (5/2012)



IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM Jolie Klook

CIVIL ACTION

JULIE KESSK	PLAINTIFF :	CIVIL ACTION	
v.	:	14 4205	
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	Attorney-at-law	PLAINTIFF Attorney for	
267-685-6311	215-604-1507	Charles @ Charles Wein	syRlaw, Con
Telephone	FAX Number	E-Mail Address	

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

)	
JOLIE KROOKS,		4205
Plaintiff,)	
v.) Case No).
HAVERFORD COLLEGE)	
Defendant.)	
)	

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff Jolie Krooks, by and through her undersigned counsel, commences this Complaint against Haverford College, for discrimination in violation of the federal non-discrimination statute, namely the Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. §794 (Section 504) and the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. §12101 et. seq. (ADA).

INTRODUCTION

- 1. This action seeks redress for Ms. Krooks, a person with a disability against
 Haverford College, for its intentional discrimination directed at Ms. Krooks by barring her from
 participating on Haverford College's softball and tennis teams, because of her disability.
- 2. Haverford College solely by reason of Ms. Krooks disability, excluded her from the participation in and denied her the benefits of a school program and otherwise subjected her to discrimination because of her disability in violation of Section 504 and the ADA.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

3. This action arises under the laws of the United States, specifically the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. §794 et. seq. ("Section 504") and the Americans with

Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. §12101 et. seq. (ADA). Therefore, this Court has subject matter jurisdiction based on a federal question pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§1331 and 1343(a)(3) and (4).

4. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391, as the Defendant is located and doing business in this judicial district. Alternatively and cumulatively, venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391 in that acts of discrimination have taken place in this District.

THE PARTIES

- 5. Plaintiff, Jolie Krooks, is a 23-year-old individual who graduated from Haverford College in 2013 and will be entering her first year of medical college. During her matriculation at Haverford College, she was a person with a disability under Section 504 and the ADA and entitled to federal protection from discrimination from Defendant. Ms. Krooks currently lives and resides in Boca Raton, Florida.
- 6. Defendant, Haverford College, is a private college located at 370 Lancaster Avenue, Haverford, Pennsylvania. Haverford is a recipient of federal financial funding and is therefore subject to Section 504 and the ADA.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

- 7. Ms. Krooks prior to entering Haverford College had a history of an eating disorder which, when active, substantially impaired the major life activities of eating, caring for oneself and otherwise impaired her digestive system and mental and emotional well being.
- 8. While Ms. Krooks eating disorder impaired certain aspects of her life, her impairment was neither crippling nor did it impair all aspects of her life.
- 9. Ms. Krooks has played competitive fast pitch softball from the time that she was six years old. Throughout most of her preteen and teen years, she played softball on competitive

travel teams that compete, at a high level of play on a state and regional level. Many colleges utilized travel softball competitions and tournaments as a means to recruit players for college teams. Ms. Krooks also played softball for all four years of high school.

- 10. During Ms. Krooks senior year of high school, she submitted a video, which showcased her softball playing skills to several colleges including defendant. This is a practice, which is common among high school athletes, particular those seeking to play intercollegiate sports at a Division III school.¹
- 11. Ms. Krooks was accepted for admission to Haverford College commencing in the 2009-2010 school year.
- 12. Ms. Krooks was also accepted onto the Haverford College women's softball team for the 2009-2010 school year. On information and belief, the Haverford College women's softball team neither conducted tryouts for positions on the team, nor were any players removed (cut) from the team roster.
- 13. In the summer/fall of 2009, before starting school and softball season, Ms. Krooks and her parents advised Haverford's Health Services that she had a history of having an eating disorder. Ms. Krooks also advised the coach of Haverford's softball team, Jennifer Ward (Ward), that she was affected by an eating disorder.
- 14. After advising Defendant of her condition, Ward and other Haverford personnel and administration treated Ms. Krooks in a discriminatory and disparate manner from other members of the women's softball team.
- 15. During Ms. Krooks freshman year (2009-2010), Ward refused to play Ms. Krooks in games; however, she allow all other players on the roster to have playing time. She also

¹ Division III refers to a division of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) of which Haverford College is a member. Division III consists of colleges and universities that do not offer athletically related scholarships to student athletes.

limited Ms. Krooks participation in practice compared to other members on the roster. Ward also refused to allow Ms. Krooks to participate in batting practice either before or after scheduled practices, claiming that the school's insurance coverage prohibited Ms. Krooks from engaging in batting practice. Other members of the women's softball team were permitted to engage in batting practice.

- 16. As a result of the repeated and pervasive discriminatory treatment that Ms. Krooks was subjected to, in the spring 2010, she suffered a regression in her health relating to her eating disorder and emotional status at the end of the 2010 spring semester. Consequently, in the spring 2010, Ms. Krooks left school and completed finals at her home.
- 17. Ms. Krooks returned to school for the 2010-2011 school year (sophomore year). She continued to participate on the women's softball team. Neither Ms. Krooks nor any other player on the team was required to tryout for the team during the 2010-2011 school year and no player was cut from the team.
- 18. In about November 2010, Ms. Krooks made an appointment to receive a routine health examination with a cardiologist. Ms. Krooks obtained a referral for an appointment with a cardiologist from Haverford's Director of Health Services, Catherine Sharbaugh (Sharbaugh) as required by Ms. Krooks health insurance plan then in force.
- 19. In January 2011, Sharbaugh after receiving knowledge of Ms. Krooks appointment with a cardiologist, required as a condition of continued participation on the women's softball team, medical clearance to play softball from the cardiologist with whom she had an appointment.
- 20. On information and belief, no other player on the women's softball roster was required to provide medical clearance from a cardiologist to play softball.

- 21. Ms. Krooks complied with Sharbaugh's unusual and discriminatory request and furnished Haverford with medical clearance from the cardiologist to play softball and medical clearance from her family physician to play softball.
- 22. Despite not being a physician, Sharbaugh refused to accept the medical clearance that she requested and further refuse to allow Ms. Krooks to play or practice with the softball team.
- 23. In furtherance of her discriminatory and otherwise unlawful acts, Sharbaugh disclosed, without Ms. Krooks' knowledge or consent, her private medical information with Martha J. Denney (Dean Denney), Dean of Haverford College; Donna Mancini, Associate Dean of Haverford College; Wendy Smith (Smith), Director of Athletics; and Jennifer Ward, Coach of Women's Softball.
- 24. By letter dated February 7, 2011 from Dean Denney to Ms. Krooks, she was advised that she was not permitted play or practice with the softball team. The February 7, 2011 letter provided a contrived list of purported concerns, which was based on discriminatory beliefs about Ms. Krooks' condition; rather, that on actual medical data or reliable information about her condition.
- 25. In Dean Denney's February 7, 2011 letter, Defendant created a list of conditions that Ms. Krooks was required to meet in order to be eligible to play softball. The list of conditions was intrusive, unreasonable, harassing, humiliating and otherwise demonstrated an intentional act of discrimination and/or deliberate indifference towards Ms. Krooks. These unreasonable conditions included the following: "Weekly scheduled consultations with the Director of Health Services, to include weighing in; Achieving a BMI of at least 19.5; Comprehensive evaluation by Haverford's staff psychiatrist with specific attention to any

medications [Ms. Krooks] may be taking; Bone density and endocrine evaluations as determined by the Director of Health Services; No more than one hour per day of exercise; Weekly meetings with [Ms. Krooks] dean/faculty adviser to discuss academic/athletic balance and [her] progression through the liberal arts curriculum." Haverford College further mandated that if Ms. Krooks was deemed "eligible" to practice and play, she would be further required to agree to another set of conditions including weekly consultations with Health Services and a long-term commitment to psychological counseling to address purported behavior issues.

- 26. The unreasonable and unnecessary conditions that Defendant imposed upon Ms. Krooks amounted to barriers that blocked and otherwise prevented her from participating on the softball team and otherwise denied her benefits of a program offer by Haverford College.
- 27. Haverford College knew or had reason to know that its conditions were unreasonable and excessive. Haverford College further expressly acknowledged that its conditions were disappointing and distressing to Ms. Krooks.
- 28. Ms. Krooks attempted to return to the team in mid-March 2011. However, due to Haverford's unreasonable and discriminatory standards, which were applied only to Ms. Krooks, she continued to be blocked and prevented from participating on the women's softball team.
- 29. Over the course of the summer of 2011, Haverford continued to implement and mandate that Ms. Krooks comply with its conditions in order to play or practice with the softball team.
- 30. In or about late August 2011, Ms. Krooks notified Haverford that she complied with their conditions, that she had been cleared by her physician tφ play softball.
- 31. Haverford continued to set up barriers and continue to mandate adherence to its unreasonable requirements of eligibility that were implemented exclusively for Ms. Krooks.

- 32. Not only were the conditions that Haverford imposed on Ms. Krooks unreasonable, its implementation of these rules at times were chilling and outrageous. On one or more occasions, Ms. Krooks appeared at Haverford's Health Services to have her weight checked and was ordered by Sharbaugh to remove all her clothing in front of Sharbaugh, despite Krooks repeated protests.
- 33. Haverford's conduct was designed to discourage, dissuade and punish Ms. Krooks for pursuing and advocating for her rights. As a proximate result of Defendant's persistent and pervasive conduct, Ms. Krooks felt humiliation, embarrassment, shame, and self-conscious.
- 34. On or about November 29, 2011, Ms. Krooks provided substantial documentation that demonstrated that she complied with and exceeded Haverford's conditions for returning to play and practice with the softball team. The documentation included medical clearance from Michael Pertschuk, M.D., a leading specialist on eating disorders.
- 35. Dean Denney acknowledged receipt of Ms. Krooks documentation and asserted that the so-called assessment team would determine if the information was sufficient.
- 36. On information and belief, the assessment team did not have a physician and was comprised largely of non-medically trained personnel.
- 37. Ms. Krooks made several inquiries to Dean Denney regarding the status of her request to return to the softball team.
- 38. On January 5, 2012, after several delay tactics, the assessment team determined that Ms. Krooks met the conditions to be eligible for the softball team.
- 39. Immediately after receiving clearance from the assessment team to play softball, Ms. Krooks advised Ward of eligibility to play on the team.

- 40. After a several week delay, Ward advised Ms. Krooks to contact her to set up a meeting and discuss tryouts. Ms. Krooks promptly contacted Ward and offered her availability for a meeting.
- 41. While Haverford never had any tryout for the softball team or any cuts during Ms. Krooks prior years, because of her desire and resolve to play softball, Mr. Krooks was willing to participate in tryouts.
- 42. Ms. Krooks was not offered an opportunity to tryout for the team. Rather, Ward simply advised Krooks in early February that she was cut from the team.
- 43. Ms. Krooks requested that Ward reconsider her position but Ward refused to respond.
- 44. In an attempt to recover from this devastating blow of being discriminatorily excluded from the softball team, in the spring of 2012, Ms. Krooks attempted to participate on the women's tennis team.
- 45. During the pre-tennis season, Ms. Krooks played with the tennis team captain and other members of the team. Mr. Krooks express her desire to be included as a member of the tennis team. Ms. Krooks spoke with Haverford's tennis coach and was advised that she could be on the team.
- 46. After advising that Ms. Krooks could be part of the tennis team, Ann Koger, Haverford's women's tennis coach, abruptly advised Ms. Krooks that she could not play on the team.
- 47. Haverford's implementation of conditions and ultimate refusal to allow her to participate on the softball team and tennis team was intentional and/or done with deliberate

indifference, which deprived Ms. Krooks the benefits of the athletic programs offered by Haverford College because she was regarded as having a disability.

- 48. During Ms. Krooks junior and senior year 2011-2012 and 2012-2013, she inquired about returning to the softball team. Ward, however, continued to refuse to communicate with Ms. Krooks.
- 49. Haverford's conduct constitutes a continuing act and pattern of discrimination directed at Ms. Krooks.
- 50. Ms. Krooks was not able to institute legal action at an earlier date as due to fear of further discrimination and/or retaliation, which may have impacted her ability to graduate from Haverford College and from gaining admission to medical school.

COUNT I – DISCRIMINATION UNDER TITLE III OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

- 51. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the foregoing paragraphs of this Complaint as if set forth herein.
- 52. Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) a person with a disability includes an individual with:
 - (A) a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities of such individual;
 - (B) a record of such impairment;
 - (C) being regarded as having such an impairment....
- 53. Ms. Krooks was a qualified person with a disability in that she had an eating disorder, which impaired her eating and digestive functions. Additionally, Defendant regarded her as having an impairment.

54. Title III of the ADA prohibits covered entities from discriminating against persons with disabilities in the provision of benefits, services and or programs. The ADA, 42 U.S.C. §12182(a), provides in pertinent part

No individual shall be discriminated against on the basis of disability in the full and equal enjoyment of goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations of any place of public accommodations by any person who owns, leases (or leases to), or operates a place of public accommodation.

- 55. Defendant, Haverford College, owns leases and/or operates a place of public accommodation as defined under Title III of the ADA, 42 U.S.C. §12181(7)(J).
- 56. Defendant has discriminated and continues to discriminate against Plaintiff on the basis of her disability, in violation Title III of the ADA.
- 57. Defendants acts of discrimination included but was not limited to: (a) wrongfully and unnecessarily excluding Ms. Krooks from the softball and tennis teams; (b) treating Ms. Krooks differently from other players; (c) disclosing her disorder and other private/personal medical information without her consent or knowledge; (d) requiring unnecessary and unreasonable medical documentation to participate in school athletic programs; (e) disregarding medical documentation supporting Ms. Krooks eligibility to participate in school athletic programs; (f) mandating and creating unreasonable and unnecessary conditions for eligibility to participate in school athletic programs; (g) subjecting Ms. Krooks to physically and emotionally, harsh, cruel, intimidating and alienating conditions at Defendant's college; (h) subjecting Ms. Krooks to a hostile environment and disparate treatment.
- 58. Defendant acted intentionally or with deliberate indifference to Ms. Krooks rights under the ADA.

COUNT II – DISCRIMINATION UNDER SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973

- 59. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the foregoing paragraphs of this Complaint as if set forth herein.
- 60. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) incorporates by reference the definition of an individual with a disability set forth in the ADA. 29 U.S.C. §705(20)(B).
- 61. Section 504 prohibits covered entities from discriminating against persons with disabilities in the provision of benefits, services or programs. Section 504, 29 U.S.C. §794(a) provides in pertinent part:

No other qualified individual with a disability in the United States...shall, solely by reason of her or his disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance or under any program or activity....

- 62. Defendant Haverford College is subject to Section 504 because it receives federal financial assistance.
- 63. By wrongfully, unnecessarily, isolating and eliminating Ms. Krooks from the softball and tennis teams, Defendant denied her participation in or benefits of its athletic programs to which she was entitled and otherwise excluded her from the educational, social, and other opportunities available to other students who were not disabled or regarded as being disabled.
- 64. Defendant has discriminated and continues to discriminate against Plaintiff on the basis of her disability, in violation Section 504.
- 65. Defendant's acts of discrimination included but was not limited to: (a) wrongfully and unnecessarily excluding Ms. Krooks from the softball and tennis teams; (b) treating Ms. Krooks differently from other players; (c) disclosing her disorder and other private/personal

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medical information without her consent or knowledge; (d) requiring unnecessary and unreasonable medical documentation to participate in school athletic programs; (e) disregarding medical documentation supporting Ms. Krooks eligibility to participate in school athletic programs; (f) mandating and creating unreasonable and unnecessary conditions for eligibility to participate in school athletic programs; (g) subjecting Ms. Krooks to physically and emotionally, harsh, cruel, intimidating and alienating conditions at Defendant's college; (h) subjecting Ms. Krooks to a hostile environment and disparate treatment.

66. Defendant acted intentionally or with deliberate indifference to Ms. Krooks rights under Section 504.

COUNT III - RETALIATION UNDER SECTION 504 AND ADA

- 67. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the foregoing paragraphs of this Complaint as if set forth herein
- 68. Section 504 and the ADA prohibits retaliation against any person(s) engaged in protected activity, regardless of whether she is disabled.
- 69. Plaintiff engaged in protected activity when she advocated for a fair and discrimination free environment and for participation in the athletic programs at Haverford College.
- 70. Defendant was aware that Ms. Krooks was engaged in protected activity and nevertheless retaliated against her.
- 71. Defendant has retaliated against Ms. Krooks by: (a) excluding Ms. Krooks from participation in the college's activities and denied benefits of its programs; (b) subjecting Ms. Krooks to physically and emotionally harsh, cruel, and alienating conditions; (c) subjecting Ms. Krooks to a hostile environment and disparate treatment.

COUNT IV-DECLARATORY RELIEF

- 72. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the foregoing paragraphs of this Complaint as if set forth herein.
- 73. A present and actual controversy exists between Plaintiff, Ms. Krooks and Defendant, Haverford College concerning their rights and respective duties. Ms. Krooks contends that Defendant violated her rights under Section 504 and the ADA. Based upon information and belief, Defendant denies these allegations, thus Declaratory Relief is therefore necessary and appropriate.
- 74. Ms. Krooks seeks a judicial declaration of the rights and duties of the respective parties accordingly.

RELIEF REQUESTED

Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Court provide the following relief:

- A. Award compensatory and consequential damages for an amount excess of \$150,000.00;
- B. Issue a declaratory judgment that Defendant's practices and policies subjected Plaintiff to discrimination in violation of Title III of the ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.
- C. Award reasonable attorney fees, costs, fees and expenses pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §794a(b) and 42 U.S.C. §12205; and
 - D. Award any and all other relief that this Court finds necessary and appropriate.

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff demands trial by jury on all issues so triable.

Respectfully submitted

Dated: July 9, 2014

/s/ CW4713

Charles Weiner, Esquire
PA Attorney I.D. # 52926
LAW OFFICE OF CHARLES WEINER
Cambria Corporate Center
501 Cambria Avenue
Bensalem, PA 19020

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